(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) Assam and North-East Telecom Circles being independent licensing areas, will oversee the roll-out in the respective areas of their jurisdiction in the case of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). The roll-out is expected to be done progressively from August, 2003 onwards by BSNL.

(f) The Government Operator *viz.*, BSNL has no proposal to install a separate Internet Gateway at Guwahati; their Guwahati Internet Node is connected to National Internet Backbone (NIB) like any other major Internet Node and NIB is connected to Internet Gateway located at six places, *viz.*, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore and Pune. However, one Internet Service Licensee private company has proposed setting up of their Internet Gateway at Guwahati using a satellite medium.

Dishonour of TRAI's decision by private cellular operators

2971. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI is now expected to draw up the rules of the game within the parameters of the National Telecom Policy, 1999, whereas the decisions on the operational matters were earlier taken by the Ministry supplanting the TRAI by political executive; if so, the Government's view;

(b) whether the private cellular operators have recently refused to honour the decisions and instructions of the TRAI; and

(c) if so, what is Government's approach in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, powers and functions of TRAI are governed by the TRAI Act, 1997 as amended by TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000. TRAI has a recommendatory role in certain matters such as (i) need and timing for introduction of new service providers, (ii) terms and conditions of license to a service provider, (iii) revocation of license for non-compliance of terms and conditions of license etc. TRAI is the deciding authority in certain other matters such as (i) ensuring technical compatibility and effective inter-connection between different service providers, (ii) regulating arrangement amongst service providers of sharing their revenue derived from providing telecommunication services, (iii) Fixing the terms and conditions of inter-connectivity between the service providers etc. The functions and powers assigned to TRAI in terms of TRAI Act, are fully performed by TRAI and there is no question of the Ministry supplanting it.

(b) As informed by TRAI, the private cellular operators as listed in the enclosed statement defied TRAI's directive issued on selective blocking of calls originating in some of basic service operators' networks and terminating in their networks (*See* below). In terms of the powers vested in TRAI under the TRAI Act, TRAI have initiated action against the said cellular operators.

(c) In terms of TRAI Act, TRAI may recommend revocation of license for non-compliance of terms and conditions of the license. The action by the Government will depend on the recommendations, if any, by TRAI in this regard.

Statement

List of Cellular Operators who defied TRAI's directives

Sl. No.	Cellular Mobile Operators	Basic Service Operators	Circles
1	2	3	4
1.	Bharti Cellular Limited	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Delhi, Gujarat
2.	Bharti Mobile Limited	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Karnataka
3.	Idea Cellular Limtied	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Gujarat, Delhi
4.	Fascel Limited	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Gujarat

1	2	3	4
5.	Sterling Cellular	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Delhi
6.	Bharti Mobile Limited	HFCL Info Tel Limited	Punjab
7.	Spice Communication Limited	HFCL Info Tel Limited	Punjab
8.	Hutchison Essar South Limited	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Karnataka
9.	Hutchison Essar South Limited	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Chennai
10.	Bharti Mobinet Limited	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Chennai

Problems of limited mobile services

2972. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Industry Committee set up by Government to resolve the issue of fixed line operators, offering limited mobile services, has succeeded in solving the problems; and

(b) if so, the details of the efforts made by the said Committee and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHONOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Online payment of telephone bills

2973. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems of online payment of telephone bills;